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Murraya macrophylla, a name at new rank and new combination of Rutaceae and its supplements of biological characters

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Abstract: To clarify the systematic relationship between *Murraya kwangsiensis* (C. C. Huang) C. C. Huang var. *macrophylla* C. C. Huang and *M. kwangsiensis* (C. C. Huang) C. C. Huang var. *kwangsiensis* (Rutaceae, *Murraya*) and its taxonomic status, several species of *Murraya* were studied on taxonomy, by the comprehensive research means, such as literature access, specimen identification, field surveys, cultivation observations and microanatomy experiments. The results indicate that *M. kwangsiensis* var. *macrophylla* is obviously different from *M. kwangsiensis* var. *kwangsiensis* on many morphological characters, such as leaves, flowers and fruits; this taxon should be an independent species, and a new combination and rank *Murraya macrophylla* (C. C. Huang) F. J. Mou is proposed here; the morphological characters and the distribution of *M. macrophylla* are first described comprehensively; the pinnate leaves and leaflets of this species are biggest in the genus *Murray*, and it is more close to *M. glabra* (Guillaumin) Swingle endemic to Vietnam; many morphological characters, such as largest leaflets, veins adaxially sunken and wrinkled leaflets, all makes this species obviously different from other *Murraya* species. The taxon *M. macrophylla* is a independent species rather than a variety of *M. kwangsiensis*; this new opinion about the systematic status of *M. macrophylla* is helpful to reconstruct the phylogenetic relationship of the genus *Murraya* and to probe into the systematic relationship among species.

Key words : *Murraya kwangsiensis*, *Murraya macrophylla*, biological characters, name at new rank, new combination, Rutaceae

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大叶九里香，芸香科新等级组合及生物学特征补述

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摘要:为厘清芸香科(Rutaceae)九里香属(*Murraya*)中大叶九里香 *M. kwangsiensis* (C. C. Huang) C. C. Huang var. *macrophylla* C. C. Huang 与其原变种广西九里香 *M. kwangsiensis* (C. C. Huang) C. C. Huang var. *kwangsiensis* 间的系统关系及其分类学地位, 综合文献查阅、标本鉴定、野外实地调查、栽培观察及显微解剖等多种研究方法对九里香属植物数个种类进行分类学相关研究。结果发现: 大叶九里香在叶片、花、果实等形态特征方面与广西九里香间的差异极大, 故将其处理为一个独立的种, 并提出新等级组合 *Murraya macrophylla* (C. C. Huang) F. J. Mou; 首次对大叶九里香的形态特征及分布进行详尽描述; 该物种的羽状复叶及小叶均为九里香属中最大者, 表现更接近仅分布于越南的光叶九里香 *M. glabra* (Guillaumin) Swingle, 但其较大的小叶、叶面叶脉下凹且叶片皱缩等特征表现使其明显不同于九里香属其他种类。大叶九里香是一个独立种而非广西九里香的变种, 此关于大叶九里香分类地位的新观点有助于整个九里香属的系统发育关系重建及种间系统关系探索。

关键词: 广西九里香, 大叶九里香, 生物学特征, 新等级, 新组合, 芸香科

The genus *Murraya* L. (under the name *Murraea*) was first published based on a single species, *Murraea exotica* L., while *Bergera* L. was published based on *B. koenigii* (Linnaeus, 1771). Later taxonomists unanimously treated *Murraya* and *Bergera* as congeneric, and *Murraya* has been conserved against *Chalcas* L., though *Chalcas* was earlier published (Linnaeus, 1767). Most plants of *Murraya* distribute in southern China and Indo-Malaysia, although some species can reach to Sri Lanka, New Caledonia and northeastern Australia (Swingle, 1938; Swingle & Reece, 1967). Tanaka (1929) recognized eight species and two varieties in the genus (under the name *Chalcas*). The species of *Murraya* fell into two or three groups, and eleven species and four varieties were recognized (Tanaka 1929; Swingle 1938; Swingle & Reece, 1967; But et al, 1986). Subsequent studies on Chinese materials led to the addition of one new species *Murraya tetramera* C. C. Huang (Huang, 1959), one new combination *M. kwangsiensis* (C. C. Huang) C. C. Huang and one new variety *M. kwangsiensis* var. *macrophylla* C. C. Huang (Huang, 1978). Nine species or one varieties are endemic to China (Huang, 1997; Zhang et al, 2010). Considering the differences of chemical constituents between two sections of *Murraya*, *M. kwangsiensis* var. *macrophylla* was included into Sect. *Bergera*, along with *M. kwangsiensis* var. *kwangsiensis* (But et al, 1986), otherwise the former should belong to Sect. *Murraya* as an independent species, based on the morphological characteristics of the leaf epidermis of nine Chinese species of *Murraya* (Zou et al, 1997; 1999). At present, extremely limited findings are controversial concerning the taxonomic status and systematic position of this taxon.

The morphological descriptions of few morphological characteristics, only size of leaflet blades and fruit color are described after the publication of *M. kwangsiensis* var. *macrophylla*, and always is a variety of *M. kwangsiensis* (Huang, 1978; 1997; Zhang et al, 2010). Totally, there are ten specimens including type in three herbaria, namely IBK, GXMI and GXMG. Owing to lacking information, little is known about the taxon. For the above reasons, this taxon needs further studies on field researches and other experiments. During conducting the program "The taxonomic revision and systimatics of *Murraya* s. l.", several populations of *M. kwangsiensis* var. *macrophylla* were found only in Guangxi.

1. Materials and methods

All specimens of *Murraya kwangsiensis* var. *macrophylla* and *M. kwangsiensis* var. *kwangsiensis* preserved in IBK, GXMI, GXMG, KUN, IBSC, SYS, PE and NAS were carefully studied for collecting information and many morphological characteristics. From 2016 to 2017, field researches such as morphological features, growth

state, population status and ecological conditions were finished in Longzhou County, Daxin County and Napo County, Guangxi. For successively observing the biological and phenological characters of this species, a few plants from Napo and Daxin were transplanted in the greenhouse of Southwest Forestry University in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

During 2017–2018, flowering and fruiting were intensively investigated in cultivated environments; leaves, flowers and fruits are studied by microanatomy methods.

2. Results and analyses

2.1 *Murraya macrophylla* (C. C. Huang) F. J. Mou et D. X. Zhang comb. et stat. nov. (Plate I) 大叶九里香

Basionym: *Murraya kwangsiensis* (C. C. Huang) C. C. Huang var. *macrophylla* C. C. Huang, in Acta Phytotax. Sin. **16**(2): 85 (1978).

Type: China, Guangxi, Daxin, (Z. J. Li 3198, Holotype: IBK! barcode IBK00191042).

Additional specimens examined: **China, Longzhou**, X. F. Deng 10571 (IBK), H. Q. Li 40099 (IBK); **Daxin**, F. J. Mou 618, 619 (SWFC); **Jingxi**, Y. D. Peng 451025141014005LY (GXMG); **Napo**, D. Fang et al 0885 (GXMI), D. Fang et al 3-15482 (GXMI), D. X. Nong et al 451026130722029LY (GXMI, GXMG), B. Y. Huang 451026141015067LY (GXMG), X. Y. Huang 451026131127023LY (GXMG), F. J. Mou 543, 550, 552, 624, 625 (SWFC).

Shrub, high up to 2 m. Young branches, rachis, petiole and petals dispersed with very prominent oil glands. Compound leaves; rachis rather thin, about 12–30 cm long; leaflets 3–9, alternate; leaflets blades thick chartaceous, a few oil glands in the mesophyll; 7–20×4–10 cm, slightly inequilateral and pointed at the base, abruptly acuminate at the tip, very slightly denticulate at the margin, with a oil gland at every tooth joint; glabrous, glossy and deep green upper, light yellow-green lower, brown when dried; lateral veins 6–9 pairs, sunken on upper surface, prominent on lower surface; petiolules cylindric, glabrous, 8–16 mm long; petiole cylindric, glabrous, prominently swollen at the base. Inflorescences terminal, cymes with a few small flowers, shorter than leaves; pedicels shorter than the flowers, with 2–4 small bracts at the base; flower buds broad ovate or oblong, 4×2.5 mm, yellow white, fragrant; calyx 4-connate, very shortly ciliate sepal with a big oil gland at the base; petals 4×1 mm, glabrous, oblong. Stamens 10, alternately shorter, 3 or 2 mm long; filaments constricted gradually upper 1/2 and pubescent above; anthers attached by the back, oval, with a few hairs; disk extremely short. Ovary cylindric, glabrous, with a few oil glands, distinctly constricted at about 1/3 from the apex; style longer than ovary, with very short hairs; stigma distinct. Berry oval, diameter 4–7 mm, smooth, with dense glands, red when ripe, containing 1–2-seed, mostly 1-seed. Flowering Jun.–Jul.; fruiting Aug.–Dec.

Distribution: China, SW Guangxi (Longzhou, Daxin, Jingxi, Napo).

Habitat: Under forestry of limestone hill or valley forests, humid, shaded; alt. 550–1 400 m.

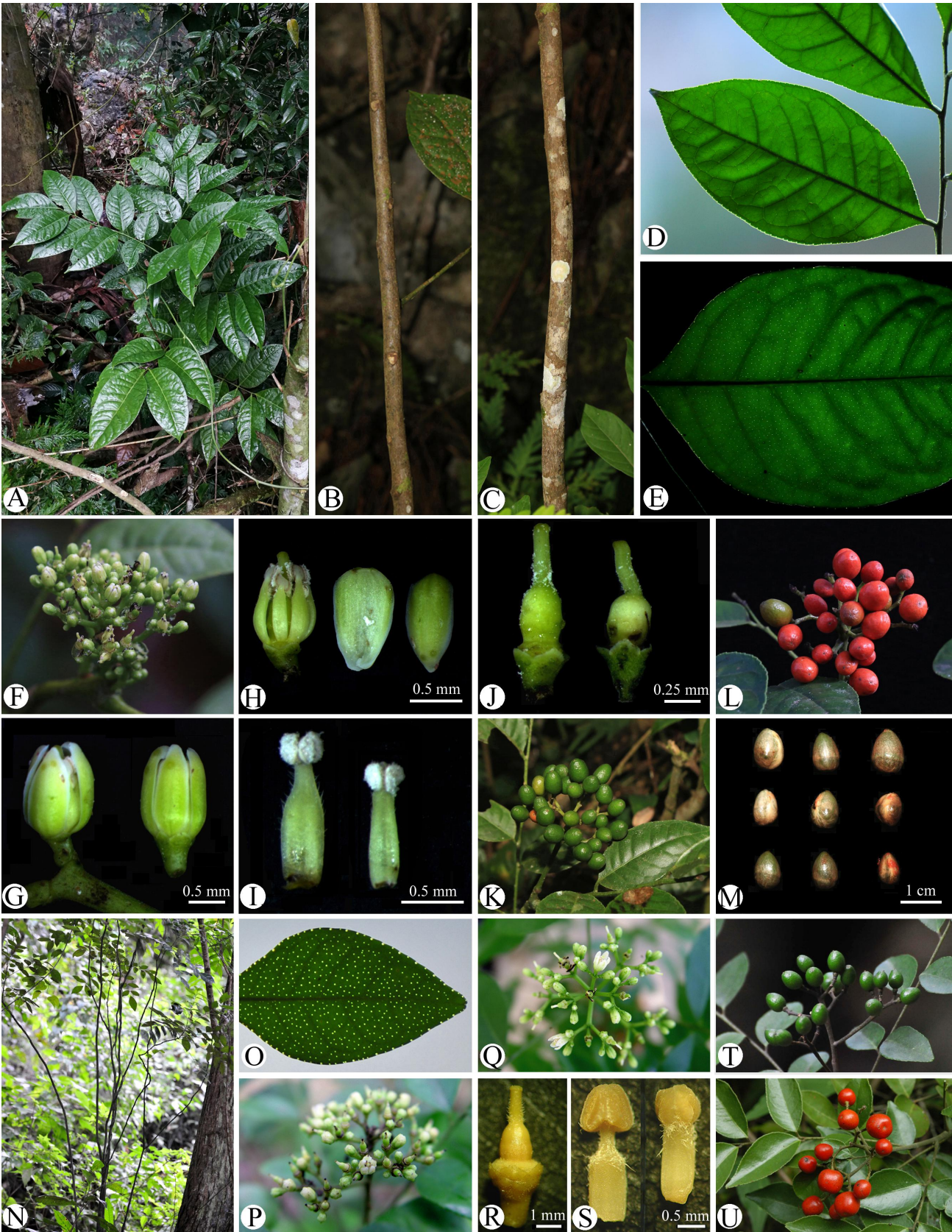
2.2 Recognition of the status of *Murraya macrophylla*

The species *Murraya macrophylla* shares few similarities of flowers with *M. kwangsiensis*, but both are so different on many morphological characters (Plate I; Tab.1). However, this taxon is more similar to *M. glabra*

from Vietnam on leaf morphological characteristics, and different having less oil glands in the mesophyll, smaller cyme, less flowers and fruits. In a word, the taxon should be a species instead of a variety of *M. kwangsiensis* and placed under sect. *Bergera* based the morphology.

Table 1 Comparison between *Murraya macrophylla* and *M. kwangsiensis*

Characters	<i>Murraya macrophylla</i>	<i>Murraya kwangsiensis</i>
Leave	rachis 12–30 cm long; leaflets 3–9	rachis 8–18 cm long; leaflets 3–15
Leaflet	thick chartaceous; 7–20×4–10 cm; both surfaces glabrous, adaxially wrinkled; base slightly inequilateral, apex acuminate, margin slightly denticulate; petiolules 8–16 mm long	thin coriaceous; 3–13×2.5–8 cm; adaxially smooth, abaxially pubescent; base inequilateral, apex obtuse to rounded and retuse, margin crenulate or revolute; petiolules 3–7 mm;
Inflorescence	glabrous	pubescent
Flower	buds oblong, yellow-white, 4×2.5 mm; calyx 4-connate, filaments constricted gradually and very sparsely haired upper 1/2; disks slightly swollen; ovary ellipsoid; style slightly longer than ovary, thin, yellow-green, sparsely haired; stigma indistinct	buds ellipsoid, white, 3.5–4×2–2.5 mm; calyx 5-connate, filaments constricted sharply and densely haired upper 1/3; disk prominently swollen; ovary oval; style slightly longer than ovary, tapering, white, haired; stigma slightly swollen, yellow
Fruit	berry oval, 4.5–6.5×3.0–4.0 mm	berry globose, 10×10 mm
Distribution	SW Guangxi; alt. 550–1 400 m	SW, W and C Guangxi, SE Yunnan; alt. 100–1 400 m



Note: A-M. *Murraya macrophylla* (A. Plant and habitat; B-C. Branch and stem; D-E. Leaflet; F. Inflorescence; G-J. Flower; K-L. fruit; M. seeds); N-U. *M. kwangsisensis* (N. Plant and habitat; O. Leaflet; P-Q. Inflorescence; R-S. Flower; T-U. Fruit).

Plate I Morphology of *Murraya macrophylla* and *M. kwangsisensis*

3. Conclusion and Discussion

Since published, *Murraya macrophylla* is always treated as a variety of *M. kwangsiensis* (Huang, 1978; 1997; Zhang et al, 2010). According to the studies of specimens and field research, it is found that the roots, stems and mature branches of *M. macrophylla* are gray-brown instead of gray-white, the same as these of *M. kwangsiensis*, which is so different from opinion of Zou et al (1997, 1999) and means that the taxon should be included into Sect. *Bergera* instead of Sect. *Murraya*. The species is more similar to *M. glabra* in the light of leaf morphology and is more close to other species from Vietnam, namely *M. glabra* and *M. stenocarpa* instead of *M. kwangsiensis*, based on phylogeny of the genus *Murraya* from ITS and six cpDNA sequences (unpublished data). All evidences suggest that *M. macrophylla* should be separated from *M. kwangsiensis* as an independent species, which is consistent with opinion of Zou et al (1997; 1999).

Key

1. Pinnately compound leaves.
 2. Leaflets surface smooth; inflorescences pubescent; calyx 5-connate.....*M. kwangsiensis*
 2. Leaflets surface uneven; inflorescences glabrous; calyx 4-connate.
 3. Inflorescences terminal and lateral; petal 4; stamens 8; stigma slightly swollen, yellow.....*M. glabra*
 3. Inflorescences terminal; petal 5; stamens 10; stigma indistinct.....*M. macrophylla*
1. Unifoliate compound leaves.....*M. stenocarpa*

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